

in the House of Representatives. Why? Well because it is not clear that another HMO protection bill could make it through committee. Too many Republicans and Democrats of each committee want to see some real reform to prevent this type of tragedy, real reform, not a fig-leaf piece of legislation.

I think there are even majority votes in both the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Commerce for strong medical necessity and enforcement measures. Maybe that is the reason why the committee chairmen are not moving ahead. Maybe that is why the leadership of this House is not telling them to get their act in order, get this to the floor.

Well, the Senate is debating HMO reform this week. So let us see what happens there.

I think today the Washington Post called it about right when it referenced the GOP Senate bill. It said, "The Republican bill professes to provide many of the same protections, but the fine print often belies its claims. Among much else, it turns out to apply only to some plans and to only about one-fourth as many people as the Democratic bill would cover."

The Post then talked about the GOP criticisms of the Democratic bill, "Critics say that the Democratic bill, by weakening the cost-containment industry, would drive up costs." The Post continues, "Our contrary sense is that, in the long run, it would strengthen cost containment by requiring that it be done in a balanced way", exactly the sentiments that I expressed a few minutes ago.

Today the Washington Post closed that editorial by saying, "The risks of increased costs tend to be exaggerated in debate. The managed care industry says that, by and large, it already does most of the modest amount this bill would require of it. If so, the added cost can hardly be as great as the critics contend."

Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about the cost for a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, we are talking about something in the range of \$36 per year for a family of four. Is that not worth it to prevent an HMO tragedy like happened to this little boy?

Mr. Speaker, please keep your promise. By next week, we should have debated HMO reform in full committee, and we should be headed to the floor. Is that going to be the situation? Or is it the Speaker's intention to try to limit debate on this important issue by putting it right up against August recess, when Members have planned vacations with their families, in order to limit debate.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if that is so, it will be seen for what it really is, a cynical abuse of scheduling because the leadership of this House really does not want a full debate on protecting patients. Mr. Speaker, I hope that is not the case. The victims of managed care and their families are watching.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARY MILLER of California). The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from references to the Senate including the characterization of Senate action and the urging of the Senate to take certain action.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BALDWIN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, July 14 when on account of illness in the family.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mrs. THURMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MICA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes on July 20.

Mr. DEMINT, for 5 minutes on July 14.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOSSELLA, for 5 minutes on July 14.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On July 12, 1999:

H.R. 4. To declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 14, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2984. A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Facilities Grant Program (RIN: 0575-AC10) received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2985. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting notification that the Secretary has approved the retirement of Lieutenant General George A. Fisher, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2986. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Single Family Mortgage Insurance; Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure Notice [Docket No. FR-4411-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AH30) received June 15, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2987. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting Notice of Final Funding Priorities for Fiscal Year 1999 for New Awards under the Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance Program, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2988. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories: Off-Site Waste and Recovery Operations [FRL-6377-5] (RIN: 2060-AH96) received July 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2989. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Zapata, Texas) [MM Docket No. 98-133 RM-9314] received June 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2990. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Guides for the Watch Industry—received June 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2991. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for defense articles and defense services to Greece [Transmittal No. DTC 111-98], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2992. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement for the export of defense services to the United Kingdom [Transmittal No. DTC 5-99], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.